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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, as revised on February 4, 1992, 1135 OG 23-24, Applicant hereby call the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application. A copy of each of the documents is enclosed for the Examiner's consideration.

No inference should be drawn that any apparatus disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention.

The citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

Applicant is including a check herewith for \$180 for the fee for this IDS. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039 for any further fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 2, 2003

Mark J. Murphy

Registration No. 34,225

COOK, ALEX, McFARRON, MANZO, CUMMINGS & MEHLER, Ltd. 200 West Adams Street, Suite 2850 Chicago, Illinois 60606 (312) 236-8500

The PTO did not receive the following listed item(s)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on ______ Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number. Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449/PTO Application Number 09/768,133 Filing Date January 23, 2001 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE First Named Inventor Nagao et al. STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Art Unit 2823 (Use as many sheets as necessary)

of 1

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

T. Pham

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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ^{2 (ifkno wn)}	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages,C olumns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevan Figures Appear	
		^{US-} 5,821,138	10/13/1998	Yamazaki et al.		
		^{US-} 6,524,877	02/25/2003	Nakazawa et al.		
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign PatentD ocument	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages,C olumns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages		
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶A pplicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete. including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D C 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.